THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 9621.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1863.

PRICE THREE CENTS

THE REBEL MESSAGE.

What Jeff. Davis Says of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

MILITARY OPERATIONS OF THE REBELS.

ate Authorities to Punish Union Officers Taken with Slaves in Their Possession.

the Rebels Suppressed.

passed into a second stage, in which it was attempted aquer and rule those States as dependent provinces, ated in this second design, our enemies have evidently red upon another, which can have no other purpose

however implacable they may be, they can have of a struggle uncheered by any hope of success, alive solely for the indulgence of mercenary and ed passions, and demanding so exhausting an expen-e of blood and money as has hitherto been imposed seir people. The advent of peace will be hailed joy; our desire for it has never been conceated; our a to avoid the war, forced on mean propert and the insane passions of our foes, are ormankind. But, carnest as has been our wish for longed, until their right to self-government and reignty and independence or these States shall en triumphantly vindicated and firmly estab-

me reference to the rolations between the confede and the neutral Powers of Europe since the separa these states from the torner those. For or in the members of the confederacy were recognized on an independent covereignties in a treaty of concluded in the year 1783, with one of the two maritime Powers of Western Europe, and had been to that period allies in war of the other. In the 1778 they formed a union with nine other States
Articles of Confederation. Dissatisfied with
Islon, three of them—Virginia, Carolina and Georcogether with eight of the States now members of
nited States, second from it in 1789, and these and the subject of discussion with any third Power-at a later period, North Carolina acceled to that Union, and when, still later, the other geven States, combers of this confederacy, became also members came Union, it was upon the recognized footing o tion into which they had entered of their own fre at a subsequent period the defence of their enfety the provision for perpetuity contained in on of Confederation of 1778 was emitted to the eign nations, and which international law did be made to rejendly Powers of all organic propriety is giving prempt assurance of our de-

ntions amerable relations with all mankind, under the influence of the se considerations that

ports. This prohibition, directed with apparent imparagainst the Confederate States alone; for they alone could find a hostile commerce on the ocean. Merely nomina against the United States, the prohibition ope-rated with intense severity on the confederacy, by depriving it of the only means of maintaining, with some approach to equality, its struggle on the ocean against the crushing superiority of nava-force possessed by its enemies. The value and efficiency of the weapon which was thus wrested from our grasp by of a patien which professes openly its intention of ravag ing their commerce by privateers in any future war, is strikingly illustrated by the terror in spired among the commercial classes of the Unite States by a single craiser of the confederacy One national steamer, commanded by officers and manner by a crew who are debarred by the closure of neutra ports from the opportunity of causing captured vessels to be condemned in their favor as prizes, has sufficed to double the rates of marine insurance in Northern ports and consign to forced inaction numbers of Northern vessels, in addition to the direct damage inflicted by captures as sea. How difficult, then, to overestimate the effects that must have been produced by the hundreds of private armed vessels that would have swept the seas in pursuit of the commerce of our enemy if the means of disposing of their prizes had not been withheld by the action of

of our coast that the policy of European Powers has been so shaped as to cause the greatest injury to the confede racy, and to confer signal advantages on the United states. The importance of this subject requires some development. Prior to the year 1856 the principles regulating this subject were to be gathered fro the writings of eminent publiciets, the decisions of admiralty courts, international treaties, and the usages of nations. The uncertainty and doubt which prevailed war, resulting from the discordant, and eften conflict principles announced from such varied and independe sources, had become a grievous evil to mankind. Wheth land as well as by sea, whether a blockade was would by sea if whe investing floet was merely sufficien to render tagress do the blockaded port evidently dang ous, or whether it' was further required for its legality that it should be sufficient really to present screen, an numerous other aim har questions, had remained doubtfue and undecided. An waied by the highly benerable de sire to put an end to differences of opinion between a trale and beliggrents which may occasion serious diffe ties and even conflicts- I quote the official language-th five great Powers of Eur spe, together with Sardinia and

of principles:

Pirits—Privateering is and remains abolished.

Secondly—The neutral flat covers enemy is goods, with
the exception of central and of was.

Thirdly—Neutral goods, with the exception of centrahand of ver, are not liable to cyture under enemy's flag.

Fourthly—Stocknies, in order to be binding, must be
effective: that is to say, maintained by a force sufficient
really to provent access to the cover of the enemy.

Not only did this solumn declaration announce to the world the principles to which the sixning Powers agreed to conform in future wars, but it captained a clause to which there Powers gave immediate effect, and which provided that the States not parties to the Cougrass of Paris should be invited to accede to the declaration. Under this invitation every independent a for agenting to Europe consciencem chargest instance is known to me of a refusal, and the United duly of viciting the capitals of the States, while doubling, to assent to the proposition which

blockade. In a word, that every prescription of maritime law and every right of neutral nations to trade with a belligerent under the sanction of principles heretofore has received our remonstrance, and has submitted in al most unbroken silence to all the wrongs that the United States have chosen to inflict on its commerce.

itself to such implied acquiescence in these breaches of international law as results from simple inaction, but has in a published despatch of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affaire, assumed to make a change in the princt ple enunciated by the Congress of Paris, to which th pledged—a change too important and too prejudicial to the interests of the confederacy to be overlooked, and against which I have directed solemn protest to be made, after a vain attempt to obtain satisfactory explanations from the British government. In a pub Minister at Washington, under date of February 11, 1862

occurs the following passage:—

Mer Majesty's government, however, are of opinion that, assuming that the blockade was duly notified, and also that a number of snips are stationed and remain at the entrance of a port sufficient really to prevent access, it, and that these ships do not voluntarily permit logress or egress, the fact that various ships may have successfully escaped through it (as in the particular instance here referred to) will not of itself prevent the blockade from being an effectual one by international law.

The words which I have italicines are an addition of the state of the

The words which I have italicised are an addition mad The words which I have italicised are an addition made by the British government of its own authority to a principle, the exact terms of which were settled with deliberation by the common consent of civilized nations, and by implied convention with this government, as already explained, and their effect is clearly to reopen, to the prejudice of the confederacy, one of the very disputed questions on the law of blockade which the Congress of Paris professed to settle. The importance of this change is readily illustrat, ed by taking one of our ports as an example. There is evident danger in entering the port of Wilmington from the presence of a blockading force, and by this test the blockade is effective. "Access is not really prevented" by the blockading feet to the same port; for steamers are continually arriving and departing; so that, tried by this continually arriving and departing; so that, tried by the test, the blockade is ineffective and invalid. The justice of our complaint on this point is so manifest as to leave little room for doubt that further reflection will induce the British government to give us such assurances as will efface the painful impressions that would result

from its language if left unexplained.
From the foregoing remarks you during nearly two years of struggle, in which every energy of our country has been evoked for maintaining its very existence, the neutral nations of Europe have pur

mental to us.

The exercise of the neutral right of refusing entry in The exercise of the neutral right of refusing entry into their ports to priors taken by both belligerents was eminently burtful to the conjecteracy. It was storely asserted and maintained. The exercise of the neutral right of commerce with a belligerent whose ports are not blockeded by fleets sufficient really to prevent access to them would have been eminently burtful to the United States. It was commissionally shandlened. The duty of neutral States to one placeantly abandened. The duty of neutral States to re coive with cordiality and recognize with respect any new confederation that independent States may think proper to form was to clear to admit of densa; but its post potentiant was obviously knowled to the United States and deprimental to the confederacy. It was postspaned.

examples of every conceivable atrocity committed by th ast communication to you do blood, and the demand for his punishment has remained unsatisfied. The govern-ment of the United States, after promising examina-tion and explanation in relation to the charges tion and expansion in reasons made against tienral Benjamin F. Butler, has, by its subsequent silence after repeated efforts on my part to obtain some answer on the subject, not only admitted his guilt, but sanctioned it by acquissource; and I have accordingly branded this criminal as an outlaw, and directed his execution in explation of his crimes if he should fall into the hands of any of our forces.

Recently I have received apparently authentic intelli gence of another general, by the name of Milroy, who has issued orders in Western Virginia for the payment of money to him by the inhabitants, accompanied by the most savage threats of shooting every recusant, besides burning his house, and threatening similar atrocities against any of our citizens who shall fall to betray their ountry by giving him prompt notice of the approach of any of our forces. And this subject has also been submitted to the superior military authorities of the United States with but faint hope that they will evince any disapproba tion of the act. Homanity shudders at the appalling atrotion of those who have obtained temporary possession or power in the inited States, and who are fast making its once tair name a byword of repreach among civilized men. Not even the usuaral indignation inspired by this conduct should make us, however, so enjust as to as conduct should make us, of the people who are subjected to the despation that now reigns with unbridged increase in the city of Washington a willing acquiescence in its conduct of the war. There must necessarily exist among our enemies very many, perhaps a majority, whose humanity recoils from all participation in such atrocities, but who cannot be held wholly guittens while permitting their continuance without an effort at

containing a proclamation, dated on the first day of the present month, signed by the President of the United tes, in which he orders and declares all slaves within such as are found within certain districts now eccupied leave it to the instructs of that common humanity which fellow men of all countries to pass judgment on a measure by which several millions of human beings of an inferior race—peaceful and consented laborers in their sphere—are are encouraged to a general assummation of their masters by the insidious recommendation "to abetain from violence unless in necessary self-defence." Our own detectation of those who have attempted the most execuable measure recorded in the history of guilty mail is tempered by profound contempt for the impotent rage which it discloses. So far as regards the action of this government on such crimi-nals as may attempt its execution, I confine myself to informing you that I shall—whices in your wadons you down some other course more expedient—deliver to the several State authorities all commissioned officers of the United States that may bereafter be captured by our forces in any of the states embraced in the proclamation, that they may be dealt with in secondance with the law, of those States providing for the punishment of criminals of those States provining for the pupishment of ormainals ongaged in exciting servile insurrection. The entisted soldiers I shall continue to treat as unwifiling instruments in the commission of these orimes, and shall direct their discharge and return to their bonnes on the preper and

In its political aspect this measure possesses great sig-

pectation in the volume of the carrency, with its nece ile, what ground can there be to doubt the disposition to levote a tithe of its income, and more if more be necessary, to provide the government with means for insuring the comfort of its defenders; If our enemies submit to an excise on every commodity they produce, and to the daily presence of the tax gatherer, with no higher motive than the hope of success erer, with no higher motive than the hope of success in their wicked designs against us, the suggestion of an unwillingness on the part of this people to submit to the taration necessary for the success of their defence s an imputation on their patriottem that few will be dis,

posed to make and that none can justify.

The legislation of your last session, intended to hasten
the funding of outstanding Treasury notes, has proved beneficial, as shown by the returns appeared to the reaufficiently prompt nor farreaching to meet the full extent of the evil. The passage of some enactment, carrying still further the policy of that law, by fixing . imitation not later than the 1st of July next to delay allowed for funding the notes issued prior to the tary, have the effect to withdraw from circulation nearly the entire sum issued previous to the last named date If to this be added a revenue from adequate taxation, and appropriation of boods guaranteed proportionately by the seven per cents, as has already been generously propos by some of them in enactments spontaneously adopted there is little doubt that we shall see our finances restored to a sound and satisfactory condition, our circulation relieved of the redundancy now productive of o many mischiefs, and our credit placed of such a basis as to relieve us from further anxiety relative to our re. ources for the prosecution of the war.
It is true that at its close our debt will be large; but I

will be due to our own people, and neither the interest nor the capital will be exported to distant countries, im-

overishing ours for their benefit.
On the retorn of peace the untold wealth which will pring from our soil will render the burthen of taxation far less operous than is now supposed, especially if we take into consideration that we shall then be ree from the large and steady drain of our cubstance to which we were subjected in the sate Union through the instrumentality of sectional legislation and protective tariffs. I recommend to your earnest attention the whole report of the Secretary of the Treasury on this important subject, and trust that ion on it will be detayed no longer than may be required to enable your wisdom to device the prope es for insuring the accomplishment of the of

The operations of the War Department have been in the main satefactory. In the report of the Secretary, here with submitted, will be found a summery of many memo-rable recommen. They are with justice ascribed in large measure to the reorganization and reinforcement of our armies under the operation of the enactments for coneription. The windom and efficacy of these acts have been approved by remits, and the like spirit of unity endurance and self-devotion of the people which his hitherto cutained their action must be reliced to assure their enforcement under the continu ing necessities of our attention. The recommensuggestions for their amelioration, and the subject de server the consideration of Congress.

For the perfection of our military organization to ap-propriate means should be rejected, and on this subject propriate means amongs to rejecter, and on the amongs the opinions of the Secretary moral early attention. It is gratifying to perceive that, under alifthe efforts and sacrifices of war, the power and means of the confederacy for its successful presention are increasing. Dependence on

Divine Providence, depends upon the harm and unity of the States. It especially deve proceeds of raines opened and furnaces built during the war. Our mountain caves yield much of the nitre for the manufacture of powder, and promise increase of product From our own foundries and laboratories, from our own armories and workshops, we derive, in a great measure, the warlike material, the ordnance and ordnance store, which are expended so profusely in the numerous and desperate engag ments that rapidly succeed each other. Cotton and woollen fabrics, shoes and harness, wagons and gun carriages, are produced in daily increasing quantities by the factories springing into existence. Our fields, no longer whitened by cotton that cannot be experted, are devoted to the production of ceresls and the growth of stock formerly purchased with the proceeds of cotton. In the homes of our noble and devoted women-without whose sublime sacrifices our success would have been impo blo-the noise of the loom and the spinning whosi may be

With hearts swelling with gratitude, let us, then, join inuance of His pretecting care over our cause, and the

THE FIGHTING ON THE BLACKWATER.

Official Despatches from General Dix and General Peck.

FORTRES MORNOR, Jan. 15, 1863.
Maj. Gen. H. W. Halling, General in Chief, Washington: Ma) Gen. H. W. Hallet, teneral in the property of the Richmond papers are beasting that General Pryor repulsed our troops near New Providence Church on the 6th instant. The following despatch of the 16th instant, from General Pack, gives the true version of the affair. His attack was repulsed by our Mounted Rifles, under Major Whitelan. It is due to the latter and to our troops that the trath should be known, and if you see no objec-tions I would be glad to have the despatch published. JOHN A. DIX, Major General.

The enemy crosses the Blackwater in considerable force, and attempted yesterday to drive in our right wing at Providence Church. Infantry, cavalry and artiflery were employed by the rebels; but they were repulsed by Major Wheelan's New York Mounted Riffer. At dork the champ's advance was charged upon and driven back upon his supports. At intervals inrough the night shells were thrown from the rebs batteries.

JOHN J. PECK, Major General Commanding.

Our Fortress Monroe Correspondence.

FORTHER MOTEON, Jan. 15, 1863.
Mosements of the Releis on the Blackweier -- Brasts of Reg-

Movements of the Robels on the Hackwester—Hands of Roger A. Propr—General Peck's Preparations to Meet the Rebels—The Union Soldiers Not to be Gaught Napping, de.

The boast of the rutten Roger A. Pryor (of Petter bowies inside autorities), commissioning the robes forces on the Hackwester, to take distribut before the middle of the work, has not as yet been fulfilled. The robes element of southill and Norfeels, of Gourse, is very jubilised, and the most about a tumors are in circulation. One is that pryor's cavalry is about to come through the Dismost bumor, ride income, Princess Ann. county, and make a duals in the devoted city of Norfock, aspture Brigadies duals in the devoted city of Norfock, aspture Brigadies despited Vide, and destroy the stores for the army, and remains a thousand and one other depredations, to whole the right take it for granted your forces would look counted let them reture to peace.

If a demonstration is made by the robets in the rear or on the flam of Major General John J. Peux, that excellent officer would undowheely be caught appying but there need be no fear on that score. General Peck it leaded to the counter of that score. General Peck is less efficient an officer not to know with a before him, and how will an enough be has to centend with There is no used of appreciations for the safety of mothely, and the stem of a rand being made on Norfock is aimply ridication. The properations of Major General Inx are most a major to hold both bidsper.